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# 1988 CANDIDATE INFORMATION GUIDE

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Prepared by:

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Secretary of State

Montana State Capitol

Helena, MT 59620

## **DECLARATION FOR NOMINATION**

Partisan and nonpartisan candidates for nomination in the 1988 primary must file a declaration for nomination. Candidates for congressional, state and district offices, including legislative, file with the Secretary of State. Candidates for a county, precinct or district office, other than legislative or judge of district court, to be voted for in only one county, file with their County Election Administrator.

Along with filing a declaration for nomination, candidates must pay the required filing fee. Forms for the respective offices and the amount of the filing fee can be obtained from the Secretary of State or County Election Administrator.

## **FILING DATES**

Candidates can file for their respective offices between Monday, January 25, 1988 and 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 24, 1988. Forms received after that 5:00 p.m. deadline won't be accepted for filing, even if they bear a postmark dated before the deadline.

## **NOTICE TO CANDIDATES**

It's very important that all legislative candidates check to see that they are registered at the proper address and they know the number of the House and Senate district they wish to file for.

## **INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES**

Independent candidates will appear only on the general election ballot. Such candidates must file petitions for nomination accompanied by appropriate filing fee and an oath of candidacy.

Contact the County Election Administrator or Secretary of State for specific laws in regard to the petition and filing deadlines.

## **WRITE-IN NOMINATIONS**

Individuals nominated by having their names written in on the primary ballot, and who desire to accept the nomination, may not have their names printed on the general election ballot unless they:

(1) received at least 5% of the total votes cast for the successful candidate for the same office in the last general election;

(2) file with appropriate official a written declaration indicating their acceptance of the nomination no later than 10 days after the official canvass;

(3) pay the required filing fee; and

(4) file reports of contributions and expenditures with the Commissioner of Political Practices and County Election Administrator as required.

## **Representative Districts**

100 to be elected — one from each district.

Term: 2 years

Qualifications: Same as Senator.

## **COUNTIES**

Offices may vary according to official plan of government in each county and particular vacancy situations.

The Terms and Qualifications vary. See your County Election Administrator for details.

## **1988 CANDIDATE CALENDAR**

- January 25: First day for filing Declarations for Nomination by candidates for the 1988 Primary Nominating Election.  
Candidates must file certification of campaign treasurer with Commissioner of Political Practices and County Election Administrator within 5 days after filing.
- March 10: Statewide candidate campaign report due to Commissioner of Political Practices.
- March 17: Last day to file petitions for nomination by independent and minor party candidates with the County Election Administrator for verification and certification.  
Last day to file petitions to allow minor party to nominate candidates by primary election with the election administrator for verification and certification.
- March 24: Last day to file Declarations for Nomination for state, district, county and precinct offices.  
Last day for filing Petition for Nomination by independent and minor party candidates for General Election Ballot.  
Last day for candidate to withdraw from the election. Must file notarized statement of withdrawal with the office where he filed his Declaration for Nomination.
- May 9: Close of Registration for primary election.
- May 23: Statewide candidate campaign report due to Commissioner of Political Practices.
- May 27: State district candidate campaign report due to Commissioner of Political Practices.
- June 2: Statewide candidate campaign report due to Commissioner of Political Practices.

## **CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT**

Within 5 days after filing, a candidate must file certification of a campaign treasurer with the Commissioner of Political Practices and appropriate County Election Administrator.

Information and forms for filing reports can be received by contacting Dolores Colburg, Commissioner of Political Practices, Capitol Post Office, Helena, MT 59620. Copies of the campaign finances and practices laws will be furnished to candidates by the Commissioner or the Secretary of State.

## **CANVASS OF VOTES — PRIMARY**

After the election and county canvass, all votes for state and district candidates will be canvassed by the Secretary of State, in the presence of the Attorney General, State Auditor and the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Secretary of State will then issue a certificate of nomination to the successful nominees.

All votes for county candidates will be canvassed by the County Election Administrator and County Commissioners. The results for the respective offices are certified to the County Election Administrator who then will issue a certificate of nomination to the successful nominees.

The names of the nominees, independent and minor party candidates are then printed on the ballot for the general election.

## **CANVASS OF VOTES — GENERAL**

The same procedure is followed as after the primary. The Governor or County Election Administrator will then issue commissions of election to the successful candidates. Any individuals elected by write-in must comply with (2) & (4) of "Write-in Nominations" outlined above.

## **QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICES TO BE FILLED IN THE 1988 ELECTION**

### **UNITED STATES SENATOR**

Term: 6 years

Qualifications: 30 years old, a U.S. Citizen for 9 years, and a resident of Montana when elected.

### **UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE**

First and Second Districts

Term: 2 years

Qualifications: 25 years old, a U.S. Citizen for 7 years, and a resident of Montana when elected.

## **GOVERNOR**

### **LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

Term: 4 years (joint filing required)

Qualifications: 25 years old, a U.S. Citizen and a resident of Montana for 2 years.

### **SECRETARY OF STATE**

Term: 4 years

Qualifications: 25 years old, a U.S. Citizen and a resident of Montana for 2 years.

### **ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Term: 4 years

Qualifications: Same as Secretary of State and engaged in the active practice of law thereof for at least 5 years before election.

### **STATE AUDITOR**

Term: 4 years

Qualifications: Same as Secretary of State.

### **PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER**

Districts 2, 4 and 5

Term: 4 years

Qualifications: 18 years old and a qualified elector of district.

### **SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

Term: 4 years

Qualifications: Same as Secretary of State and holds at least a bachelor's degree from any unit of the university system or from an institution recognized as equivalent by the Board of Public Education for teacher certification purposes.

### **CLERK OF SUPREME COURT**

Term: 6 years

Qualifications: 18 years old and a qualified elector.

### **SUPREME COURT JUSTICE**

Seat Numbers 5 & 6

Term: 8 years

Qualifications: Resident of Montana for 2 years and admitted to practice of law in Montana for at least 5 years prior to date of election.

### **DISTRICT COURT JUDGE**

Term: 6 years

Qualifications: Same as Supreme Court Justice.

## **LEGISLATURE**

### **Senate Districts**

2, 4, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 19, 21, 23, 25, 26, 27, 30, 31, 33, 35, 36, 37, 40, 44, 45, 48, 49, 50.

Term: 4 years

Qualifications: 18 years old, 1 year resident of Montana and 6 month resident of county or district.

## **Representative Districts**

100 to be elected — one from each district.

Term: 2 years

Qualifications: Same as Senator.

## **COUNTIES**

Offices may vary according to official plan of government in each county and particular vacancy situations. The Terms and Qualifications vary. See your County Election Administrator for details.

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